

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

Claim 1 (previously presented): A method for transmitting streaming information in a packetized format, the method comprising:

forming a first packet containing information generated over a first duration; and
in response to a predetermined event, forming a second packet containing information generated over a second duration, the second duration being longer than the first duration;

wherein duration is the length of time needed to play out the information in real time.

Claim 2 (previously presented): The method of Claim 1 wherein:
information for the first packet and information for the second packet is received from a common information generator.

Claim 3 (previously presented): The method of Claim 1 wherein:
information for the first packet is generated by an information generator different from another information generator that generates information for the second packet.

Claim 4 (previously presented): The method of Claim 1 wherein:
the predetermined event includes an increase beyond a predetermined threshold of processing requirements in a device that receives the first packet and the second packet.

Claim 5 (previously presented): The method of Claim 1 wherein:
the predetermined event includes an increase beyond a predetermined threshold in processing requirements in a device that transmits the first packet and the second packet.

Claim 6 (previously presented): A method for transmitting streaming information in a packetized format, the method comprising:

forming a first packet containing information generated over a first duration; and
in response to a predetermined event, forming a second packet containing information generated over a second duration, the second duration being longer than the first duration;

wherein the predetermined event includes an increase beyond a predetermined threshold in processing requirements in a device that transmits the first packet and the second packet; and

wherein information included in the first packet forms a portion of a first stream between a source device and a destination device, and the source device transfers additional information in at least one additional stream to or from another destination device, the method further comprising:

determining occurrence of the predetermined event when a predetermined number is exceeded by a total number of streams, including the additional stream and the first stream.

Claims 7-9 (canceled)

Claim 10 (previously presented): The method of Claim 1 wherein:
the first packet has a first size; and
the second packet has a second size, the second size being larger than the first size.

Claim 11 (previously presented): The method of Claim 1 further comprising:
forming said first packet and said second packet in conformance with UDP protocol of Internet.

Claim 12 (previously presented): The method of Claim 1 further comprising:
digitizing audio to generate the information.

Claim 13 (previously presented): The method of Claim 12 further comprising:
encoding the audio subsequent to digitizing.

Claim 14 (previously presented): A method for transmitting streaming information in
a packetized format, the method comprising:

forming a first packet containing information generated over a first duration;
in response to a predetermined event, forming a second packet containing
information generated over a second duration, the second duration being longer than the
first duration;

wherein:

the information includes a plurality of snippets, each snippet having information
received over a predetermined duration; and

the first packet includes a first number of snippets and the second packet includes a
second number of snippets, the second number being greater than the first number.

Claim 15 (canceled)

Claim 16 (original): The method of Claim 14 further comprising maintaining a jitter
buffer within a range defined by a maximum size and a minimum size by:

adding two copies of a snippet to the jitter buffer if a current size of the jitter buffer is
smaller than a minimum size;

dropping a snippet if the current size of the jitter buffer is larger than a maximum
size; and

adding the snippet to the jitter buffer if the current size of the jitter buffer is between
maximum size and minimum size.

Claim 17 (previously presented): A device including:

a memory;

an information controller coupled to the memory for storing information in the
memory;

a packet controller coupled to the memory for transmitting a plurality of packets stored in the memory; and

a processor that uses information of a first duration as payload in each of said packets prior to occurrence of a predetermined event, and uses information of a second duration as payload after occurrence of the predetermined event;

wherein duration is the length of time needed to play out the information in real time.

Claim 18 (previously presented): The device of Claim 17 wherein:
the predetermined event is related to processing requirements of said processor.

Claim 19 (original): The device of Claim 18 wherein:
the predetermined event is related to deterioration in performance of the processor;
and
the second duration is longer than the first duration.

Claim 20 (original): The method of Claim 14 wherein:
the second number is a multiple of the first number.

Claims 21-22 (canceled).

Claim 23 (original): The method of Claim 1 further comprising:
digitizing video to generate the information.

Claim 24 (original): The method of Claim 6 further comprising:
digitizing video to generate the information.

Claim 25 (original): The method of Claim 6 further comprising:
digitizing audio to generate the information.

Claim 26 (original): The method of Claim 14 further comprising:

digitizing video to generate the information.

Claim 27 (original): The method of Claim 14 further comprising:
digitizing audio to generate the information.

Claims 28-29 (canceled).

Claim 30 (original): The method of Claim 20 wherein:
the multiple is 2.

Claims 31-41 (canceled).

Claim 42 (currently amended): ~~The method of Claim 41 wherein:~~
A method for transmitting streaming information in a packetized format, the method
comprising:
forming a first packet containing a first number of snippets; and
in response to an increase in processing requirements, forming a second packet
containing snippets of a second number that is larger than the first number;
wherein the packets are formed by a source device; and
another device informs the source device about the increase;
wherein said another device informs the source device via an out of band signal.

Claim 43 (currently amended): ~~The method of Claim 41 wherein:~~
A method for transmitting streaming information in a packetized format, the method
comprising:
forming a first packet containing a first number of snippets; and
in response to an increase in processing requirements, forming a second packet
containing snippets of a second number that is larger than the first number;
wherein the packets are formed by a source device; and
another device informs the source device about the increase;

wherein said another device informs the source device via one or more bits in the header of a packet to be transmitted to the source device.

Claim 44 (currently amended): ~~The method of Claim 41 wherein:~~ A method for transmitting streaming information in a packetized format, the method comprising:

forming a first packet containing a first number of snippets; and
in response to an increase in processing requirements, forming a second packet containing snippets of a second number that is larger than the first number;

wherein the packets are formed by a source device; and

another device informs the source device about the increase;

wherein:

the first packet and the second packet belong to a first stream (hereinafter "source stream");

said another device generates and transmits another stream (hereinafter "return stream") to the source device; and

said another device informs the source device about need for the increase via an increase in payload size of the return stream.

Claims 45-50 (canceled).

Claim 51 (previously presented): A method for transmitting streaming information in a packetized format, the method comprising:

forming a first packet containing a first number of snippets; and
in response to an increase in processing requirements, forming a second packet containing snippets of a second number that is larger than the first number;

wherein a destination device that receives the packets holds the snippets temporarily in a jitter buffer before playing information contained in the snippets; and

the destination device uses the jitter buffer to average out variations in inter-arrival duration so that snippets are played out at a uniform rate.

Claim 52 (previously presented): The method of Claim 51 further comprising maintaining said jitter buffer within a range defined by a maximum size and a minimum size by:

adding two copies of a snippet to the jitter buffer if a current size of the jitter buffer is smaller than a minimum size.

Claim 53 (previously presented): The method of Claim 51 further comprising maintaining said jitter buffer within a range defined by a maximum size and a minimum size by:

dropping a snippet if a current size of the jitter buffer is larger than a maximum size.

Claims 54-65 (canceled).

Claim 66 (previously presented): A device including:

a memory;

an information controller coupled to the memory for storing information snippets in the memory;

a packet controller coupled to the memory for transmitting a plurality of packets stored in the memory; and

means for forming a first packet containing a first number of snippets and for forming a second packet containing snippets of a second number that is larger than the first number in response to an increase in processing requirements;

wherein:

the memory comprises a jitter buffer; and

the device further comprises reception means for receiving packets from a network;

wherein the reception means uses the jitter buffer to average out variations in inter-arrival duration of packets being received so that snippets of received packets are played out at a uniform rate.

Claim 67 (previously presented): The device of Claim 66 further comprising:

means for adding two copies of a snippet to the jitter buffer if a current size of the jitter buffer is smaller than a minimum size.

Claim 68 (previously presented): The device of Claim 66 further comprising:
means for dropping a snippet if a current size of the jitter buffer is larger than a maximum size.

Claim 69 (previously presented): A device comprising:
first means for forming a first packet containing information to be played out over a first length of time in real time; and
second means, responsive to a predetermined event, for forming a second packet containing information to be played out over a second length of time in real time;
third means for switchably connecting the first means and the second means to a common input source.

Claim 70 (previously presented): The device of Claim 69 further comprising:
means for transmitting the packets, wherein:
the first packet belongs to an existing stream transmitted by the device; and
the second packet belongs to a new stream to be transmitted by the device.

Claim 71 (previously presented): The device of Claim 69 further comprising:
means for transmitting the packets, wherein:
the first packet belongs to an existing stream transmitted by the device; and
the second packet belongs to said existing stream.

Claim 72 (previously presented): The device of Claim 69 wherein:
the predetermined event includes an increase beyond a predetermined threshold of processing requirements in another device that receives the first packet and the second packet.

Claim 73 (previously presented): The device of Claim 69 wherein:
the predetermined event includes an increase beyond a predetermined threshold of
processing requirements in said device.